

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy of a telephone conversation on January 20, 2006 between Examiner Cam-Y Truong and Applicant's Attorney Jeffrey T. Klayman regarding the Office action dated December 28, 2005. The Examiner suggested that the claims be amended to include a "reliability assessment" element as in the original claims.

2. Claims 23-43 submitted by Applicant on October 5, 2005 were not entered by the Examiner as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Applicants hereby submit new claims 23-43 including amendments as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, new claim 23 includes a collaborative database for recording data and related metadata providing details about the data and contributors of the data, wherein the metadata enables users to assess the reliability of the data and the contributors of the data. The data includes user-defined database structures including records and fields. Users are enabled to modify database structures defined by other users and modify content of data records and fields contributed by other users. Thus, the metadata enables users to assess reliability of changes to both the database structures and content.

New claim 23 requires, among other things, at least one process enabling users to modify database structures defined by other users and modify content of data records and fields contributed by other users. The Examiner had rejected a similar limitation in original claim 16 as being taught by Szlam. Upon careful review of the Szlam reference, Applicant respectfully submits that the Szlam reference does not describe modification of database structures, as the Examiner suggests, but rather appears to describe techniques for updating existing databases and accessing information in multiple databases using the existing (and typically different) structures of the different databases (e.g., a first database might be accessed by an account number while a second database might be accessed by social security number). In Szlam, users can only view database fields that already exist. Szlam does not provide for modifying database structures such as, for example, by adding new structures and deleting existing structures defined by other users, but rather describes modifying the contents of existing database fields.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submits that new claims 23-43 are directed to elected subject matter and are allowable over the prior art of record.

3. All pending claims are believed to be in a form suitable for allowance. Therefore, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the application. The Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, Jeffrey T. Klayman, if it will assist further examination of this application.

4. The applicants petition for a one month extension of time. In the event that a further extension is needed, this conditional petition of extension is hereby submitted, and Applicants request that deposit account number 19-4972 be charged for any fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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